



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE CITIZENS OF MEXICO INDICTED IN METH CONSPIRACY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three Mexican nationals – including two Springfield residents – were indicted by a federal grand jury today in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, as well as federal firearms and immigration violations.

Oscar Estrada Perez, 25, and **Jose Alfredo Jiminez**, 30, both residents of Springfield and citizens of Mexico; and **Hector Martinez**, 27, address unknown and a citizen of Mexico, were charged in a 10-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all three defendants conspired together to distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine in Greene County between August, 2002 and November 26, 2002.

Perez and **Martinez** are both charged in one count of distributing in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine in Greene County on September 26, 2002.

Martinez is charged with two additional counts of distributing methamphetamine in Greene County on August 15, 2002, and on September 13, 2002; and two additional counts of distributing in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine in Greene County on August 29, 2002, and on October 31, 2002.

Perez is also charged with one count of possessing with intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine in Greene County on November 26, 2002.

Jiminez is also charged with one count of possessing with intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine in Greene County on November 26, 2002. **Jiminez** is also charged with being in possession of an HK .40 caliber pistol and a Colt .45 caliber pistol on

November 26, 2002. Possession of any firearm at that time would have been illegal, Graves explained, as a result of **Jiminez's** 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance in Barry County, Mo., and because at that time **Jiminez** was allegedly an alien illegally and unlawfully in the United States. The federal indictment also charges **Jiminez** with one count of being an alien who had previously been deported and who was knowingly and unlawfully in the United States.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Immigration and Natujralization Service, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, and the Greene County Sheriff's Departmen.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow